

March 9, 2021

Public Health Ethics Deliberation

Topic: Prioritization of Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Use Among Specific Populations



Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Healthy People, Thriving Communities



WASHINGTON COUNTY
Public Health



Public Health Ethics

“Public health not only seeks to assure the health of whole communities but also recognizes that the health of individuals is tied to their life in the community”

What is Public Health Ethics

- The mandate to assure and protect the health of the public is an inherently moral one
- Public health ethics involves a systematic process to clarify, prioritize and justify possible courses of public health action
- It is both a field of study and a field of practice

Public Health Ethics vs Bioethics

- Public health actions are directed at the population level
- Bioethics often looks at the individual level and prioritizes individual autonomy
- The principles and values which guide public health can differ from those which guide actions in biology and clinical medicine

Principles of the Ethical Practice of Public Health

- Developed in 2002 by the Public Health Leadership Society
- Set of 12 principles for the ethical practice of public health
- Highlights the ethical principles that follow from the distinctive characteristics of public health

Steps for Ethical Analysis

1. Analyze the ethical issues in the situation
2. Evaluate the ethical dimensions of the alternate course of action
3. Provide justification for a public health action

Grounding Questions

- Who Benefits from the Decision?
- Who is Burdened by the Decision?
- Who is Left Out of the Decision?

Ethics Deliberation

Should PH prioritize the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine among specific populations